

Claims

- [c1] 1. A system for authorizing broadcast reception comprising:
- an authorization server which includes and is adapted and configured by software therein which receives a geographic location and programming request input;
- said authorization server further includes a What Channels Server and among other things, is adapted and configured by software to perform a signal strength calculation for a first location of a terrestrial broadcast signal, which is broadcast from a second location, where said signal strength calculation determines that a signal strength of said terrestrial broadcast signal at said first location exceeds a predetermined threshold;
- said authorization server further includes a distance from a point calculator which supplies information used for authorization for availability of programming to said first location based upon a geographic calculation that said first location is within a predetermined radius from a third location;
- said authorization server further coupled to a location database/geocoder which returns a lat/lon when provided with a street address;
- said authorization server further including software and is adapted and configured to provide information used for authorization of programming to said first location if said first location is located in a GIS boundary, as determined by a GIS boundary computer;
- a programming content and business rule database which includes a list of programming options which are available over various signal distribution mechanisms to said first location; and includes a plurality of business rules used for authorizing delivery of programming,
- said authorization server is adapted and configured to determine eligibility for said geographic location and programming request input and repetitively compute additional requests and thereby provide a location specific authorized content list which is a subset of said programming content database where programming content has been excluded based upon authorization denials determined by said authorization server.

- [c2] 2.A method of authorizing distribution of programming comprising the steps of:
- providing a geographic location and programming request to an authorization server;
- returning a set of business rules which are stored in a database;
- wherein said set of business rules are selected from said database based upon both a geographic location component and a programming component of said geographic location and programming request, and said database includes at least one business rule which is not based solely upon a signal strength of a terrestrially broadcast signal; and,
- processing said set of business rules to generate an indication of eligibility of reception of programming.
- [c3] 3.A method of claim 2 wherein said geographic location and programming request includes a first street address and said authorization server is coupled to a location database/geocoder, which is adapted and configured to generate a first lat/lon reference which corresponds to said first street address.
- [c4] 4.A method of claim 2 wherein said geographic location and programming request includes a postal zip code, and said authorization server is coupled to a location database/geocoder, which is adapted and configured to generate a first lat/lon reference which corresponds to said postal zip code.
- [c5] 5.A method of claim 3 wherein said set of business rules includes a software algorithm which relates to distance from a point calculation which analyzes a distance separation between said first street address and a second geographic location.
- [c6] 6.A method of claim 5 wherein said second geographic location is a stadium which is adapted and configured for playing football games therein.
- [c7] 7.A method of claim 5 wherein said programming component of said geographic location and programming request is a request for programming

of a live football game being performed in said stadium.

[c8] 8.A method of claim 3 wherein said set of business rules includes a software algorithm which relates to inclusion of said first street address in a first GIS boundary.

[c9] 9.A method of claim 8 wherein said first GIS boundary is a DMA.

[c10] 10.A method of claim 3 wherein said set of business rules includes a software algorithm which relates to predicting a signal strength of a first terrestrially broadcast signal carrying first programming content to said first street address and said programming component of said geographic location and programming request is a local television station news broadcast; wherein said step of processing said set of business rules results in an eligibility indication when said signal strength exceeds a predetermined threshold.

[c11] 11.A system comprising:
a world-wide computer network;
a client computer disposed at a first location and coupled via an internet connection to said world-wide computer network;
said client adapted and configured via software therein to generate geographic location and programming requests;
an authorization server, coupled to said world-wide computer network;
said authorization server adapted and configured with software accessible thereto, to make an eligibility determination relating to delivery of programming to said client computer via said world-wide network;
said authorization server using a What Channels Server with a signal strength calculator for predicting a strength of a terrestrial broadcast signal at said first location;
said authorization server using a distance from a point calculator to determine a separation of said first location from a geographic location of a stadium which is adapted and configured to be used for sporting events.

[c12] 12.A system for authorizing reception of communication signals comprising:
an authorization server which includes and is adapted and configured by
software therein which receives a geographic location and programming
request input;
said authorization server further includes a first component which is adapted
and configured by software to perform a signal strength calculation for a
first location of a terrestrial broadcast signal, which is broadcast from a
second location, where said signal strength calculation determines that a
signal strength of said terrestrial broadcast signal at said first location
exceeds a predetermined threshold;
said authorization server further includes a distance from a point calculator
which supplies information used for authorization for availability of
programming to said first location based upon a geographic calculation that
said first location is within a predetermined radius from a third location;
said authorization server further coupled to a location database/geocoder
which returns a lat/lon when provided with a street address;
said authorization server further including software and is adapted and
configured to provide information used for authorization of programming to
said first location if said first location is located in a predetermined first
boundary, as determined by a boundary computer;
a programming content and signal authorization algorithm database which
includes a list of programming options which are available over various
signal distribution mechanisms to said first location; and includes a plurality
of predetermined signal authorization algorithms used for authorizing
delivery of programming; and
said authorization server is adapted and configured to determine eligibility
for said geographic location and programming request input and repetitively
compute additional requests and thereby provide a location specific
authorized content list which is a subset of said programming content
database where programming content has been excluded based upon
authorization denials determined by said authorization server.

- [c13] 13.A method of authorizing distribution of programming comprising the steps of:
- providing a geographic location and programming request to an authorization server;
 - returning a set of predetermined signal authorization algorithms which are stored in a database;
 - wherein said set of predetermined signal authorization algorithms are selected from said database based upon both a geographic location component and a programming component of said geographic location and programming request, and said database includes at least one predetermined signal authorization algorithm which is not based solely upon a signal strength of a terrestrially broadcast signal; and,
 - processing said set of predetermined signal authorization algorithms to generate an indication of eligibility of reception of programming.
- [c14] 14.A method of claim 13 wherein said programming is television programming.
- [c15] 15.A method of claim 13 wherein said programming is radio programming.
- [c16] 16.A system of claim 12 wherein said programming content database contains radio programming.
- [c17] 17.A system of claim 12 wherein said programming content database contains television programming.